

CHAPTER 3

PARTNERSHIPS TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE WATER QUALITY

3.1 Background

From the beginning of Hawaii's nonpoint source pollution programs, the State has sought the participation of stakeholders and the public in the control of polluted runoff and the improvement of water quality. In fostering these objectives, the State relied on the advice and guidance of local experts, researchers, and land users to develop nonpoint pollution control mechanisms in response to Hawaii's geographic features and ecosystem diversity. The State's policy is to engage the stakeholders and ensure the polluted runoff control provisions developed are effective and economically feasible.

3.2 Statewide Partnerships and Watershed-based Partnerships

The Department of Health (DOH) and the Office of Planning are continuously seeking cooperative arrangements and improved coordination among the participating federal, State, and local agencies, non-profit organizations, and stakeholders. These efforts have led to the implementation of best management practices; support for environmental educational programs and promotion of coordinated pollution control projects.

The State's nonpoint source pollution coordinators in the DOH and the Office of Planning facilitate the development of plans and strategies, with scientists, engineers, and land users in government, non-government, and private organizations. Some of these coordinated efforts occur on a statewide basis and others on a watershed basis and include some formalized agreements such as Memorandums of Understanding and Memorandums of Agreements and some informal arrangements involving Working/Advisory Groups, Technical Committees, etc. Examples of the various partnerships that occur on a statewide basis and their purpose are shown on Table 3-1. Similarly, examples of watershed-based partnerships and their purpose are displayed on Table 3-2.

The State will continue to develop more partnerships to help maximize the strengths and resources needed to address water quality problems. The State intends to formalize the partnerships through *Memorandum of Understandings*. As an example, the State Department of Health has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region IX to work together to reduce nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality for the benefit of the State's environment, economy, lifestyle, and future. The State expects that such partnerships will continue to improve the mechanisms for controlling polluted runoff and will continue to result in accomplishments and favorable outcomes. Some of the accomplishments, outcomes, and expectations from these partnerships are summarized in Table 3-3.

<p>Table 3-1 Statewide Partnerships</p>		
<p>STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIPS (meeting schedule)</p>	<p>PARTICIPANTS</p>	<p>PURPOSE</p>
<p>Polluted Runoff Forum (PROF) (semi-annually)</p>	<p>Federal, State, and County agencies, and diverse stakeholder groups</p>	<p>Update and solicit input from essential stakeholder groups on the development and implementation of Hawaii’s Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program Implementation Plan</p>
<p>Focus groups (as needed)</p>	<p>Key stakeholders from government, business, university, and NGOs</p>	<p>Provide in-depth analysis of specific issues</p>
<p>Environmental Management Advisory Group (EMAG) (bimonthly)</p>	<p>Government, business, and NGOs representatives</p>	<p>Provide policy advice to the DOH’s Environmental Programs</p>
<p>Marine and Coastal Zone Management Advisory Group (MACZMAG) (bimonthly)</p>	<p>State and County agencies and non-government representatives</p>	<p>Advise the Office of Planning regarding the State’s Coastal Zone Management network.</p>
<p>NRCS State Technical Committee (quarterly)</p>	<p>Federal and State agencies, UH-CES, land owners and operators, NGOs</p>	<p>Provide input for the Natural Resource Conservation Service’s programs</p>
<p>Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD) (quarterly)</p>	<p>HACD officers and SWCD representatives</p>	<p>Provide updates on activities sponsored by Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts and the Soil & Water Conservation Districts</p>
<p>Hawaii Technical Committee for Nonpoint Source</p>	<p>Federal, State, and County agencies, SWCDs, UH-CTAHR</p>	<p>Provide technical advice and guidance on the development of polluted runoff control mechanisms</p>
<p>Wetlands Policy Inter-agency Workgroup (monthly)</p>	<p>Federal, State, and County agencies, and NGOs</p>	<p>Develop a wetlands policy for the State</p>
<p>Water Quality Education Network (WQEN) (semi-annually)</p>	<p>NGOs, government agencies, and UH-CES</p>	<p>Provide updates on the water quality educational programs sponsored by the participants</p>

Table 3-2
Watershed-based Partnerships

WATERSHED-BASED PARTNERSHIPS	PARTICIPANTS	PURPOSE
Ala Wai Canal Watershed Improvement Project (AWCWIP), Waikiki watershed region, Oahu	Community and business groups, NGOs, and government agencies	Promote community-based projects to improve water quality in the Ala Wai Canal
West Maui Water Quality Improvement Project West Maui (Kauaula through Honolulu)	West Maui SWCD, landowners, community groups, UH-SOEST, and federal, State, and county agencies	Develop and implement a community-based watershed management process to protect water quality and ocean resources
Mamala Bay Water Quality Monitoring (Diamond Head to Barbers Point)	Federal, State, and county agencies, University, NGOs	Provide information about water quality monitoring programs
Kailua Bay Advisory Council (KBAC), Koolau-poko watersheds, Oahu	Participants determined by consent decree– County, community groups, NGOs, and Sea Grant	Develop and implement water quality improvement projects
Kaiaka-Waialua Bay Hydrological Unit Area project, Oahu	West Oahu SWCD, NRCS, DOH, DLNR, DOA, HACD, USGS, USFWS, US-Army, UH-CTAHR, UH-WRRC, and HARC	Implement Memorandum of Understanding signed by the participants to carry out the Coordinated Resource Management Plan for the Kaiaka-Waialua Bay Hydrological Unit Area
Pearl Harbor watershed region, Oahu	South and West Oahu SWCDs, USGS, USFWS, U.S. Navy, Air Force, and Army, USACOE, NRCS, DOH, UH-CTAHR, UH-WRRC, DOT, C&C of Honolulu, HACD	Implement Memorandum of Understanding signed by the participants to carry out the Pearl Harbor Estuary Program Interagency Committee mission of developing nonpoint source pollution prevention projects, seeking funding for the projects and guiding project implementation and evaluation
Pelekane Bay watershed region, Hawaii	Mauna Kea SWCD, Queen Emma Foundation, federal and State agencies, UH-Hilo, large landowners	Develop and implement Watershed Restoration Action Strategies to improve coastal water quality

Table 3-2 (continued) Watershed-based Partnerships		
WATERSHED-BASED PARTNERSHIPS	PARTICIPANTS	PURPOSE
South Molokai watershed region, Molokai	Currently developing partnerships led by the Molokai/Lanai SWCD	Develop and implement Watershed Restoration Action Strategies to improve coastal water quality
Nawiliwili Bay watershed region, Kauai	Currently developing partnerships led by the East Kauai SWCD	Develop and implement Watershed Restoration Action Strategies to improve coastal water quality
Kalunawaikaala Watershed Initiative	Federal and State agencies, City and County of Honolulu, elected representatives, West Oahu SWCD, and community association members.	To responsibly manage the Kalunawaikaala watershed by coordinating and integrating programs, tools, and resources of community members, other stakeholders, and agencies.
East Maui Watershed Partnership	DLNR, The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, Haleakala Ranch, East Maui Irrigation, Keola Hana Maui, County of Maui, National Park Service	Develop a long-term inventory and management plan for the greater watershed and a strategy to target known alien species, and prevent new alien species from entering the watershed.
West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership	DLNR, The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, Kamehameha Schools, Maui County Board of Water Supply, C. Brewer and Co., Maui Land and Pineapple, AMFAC/JMB Hawaii, County of Maui	Protect the West Maui watershed and prevent further degradation.
Koolau Mountains Watershed Partnership	DLNR, DHHL, Kamehameha Schools, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, Agribusiness Development Corp., U.S. Army, Queen Emma Foundation, Bishop Museum	Eliminate or reduce the threats of damage to the watershed by implementing a pro-active management approach.

Table 3-2 (continued) Watershed-based Partnerships		
East Molokai Watershed Partnership	EPA, DOH, DLNR-DOFAW, Kalaupapa NHP, Kamehameha Schools, Kapualei Ranch, Maui County, Maui BWS, Molokai Enterprise Community Governance Board, Molokai-Lanai SWCD, USDA-NRCS, TNCH, USFWS, and USGS	Bring all entities and individuals concerned with the watershed together, jointly recognize the importance of the watershed, and encourage development of watershed management plans and projects.

Table 3-3 Accomplishments, Outcomes and Expectations from Partnerships	
PARTNERSHIPS	ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OUTCOMES AND EXPECTATIONS
PROF	Central forum to disseminate information and solicit advice for developing and implementing Hawaii's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program management and implementation plans.
Focus Groups	Responsible for guiding the development of the Hawaii's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program management measures and implementation actions.
EMAG	Set the vision, mission statement, and goals for DOH. Provided comments on the DOH's strategic plan.
MACZMAG	Passed a resolution supporting partnerships and community-based watershed management projects.
NRCS State Technical Committee	Instrumental in identifying priority watersheds as part of the Unified Watershed Assessment and in setting the criteria to select these watersheds. Influential in developing the criteria to select projects proposed for NRCS program funds (EQIP, CRP, WIP, etc.) and commenting on FOTGS.
HACD	Implements Memorandum of Understanding between Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts, the DOH, the Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and the EPA to discuss the status of cooperative activities for coordination of nonpoint source pollution controls and to protect water quality.
Wetlands	Established a State policy for wetland management.
WQEN	Disseminates information about water quality educational programs statewide.
West Maui	Implemented numerous land-based nonpoint source pollution controls.

Table 3-3 (continued) Accomplishments, Outcomes and Expectations from Partnerships	
PARTNERSHIPS	ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OUTCOMES AND EXPECTATIONS
Mamala Bay	Coordinating water quality monitoring efforts in Mamala Bay area.
KBAC	Implementing a Consent Decree by funding land-based nonpoint source pollution controls and educational projects.
Kaiaka-Waialua Bay	Created a suburban/agriculture partnership working on water quality; demonstrated use of agricultural cover crops for erosion control on roads and fields; monitored differential contributions of sediments, nutrients, and toxic organic to coastal water pollution
Pearl Harbor	Developed nonpoint source pollution public education and outreach materials, including Apoha video; road cut erosion control risk assessment; contaminant control in surface and groundwater; early warning indicators of groundwater contamination, differential impacts of plantation and diversified agriculture on nitrate contamination of groundwater.
Pelekane Bay	Developing and implementing watershed restoration action strategies as part of the State's Unified Watershed Assessment.
South Molokai	Developing and implementing watershed restoration action strategies as part of the State's Unified Watershed Assessment.
Nawiliwili, Kauai	Developing and implementing watershed restoration action strategies as part of the State's Unified Watershed Assessment.
Kalunawaikaala Watershed Initiative	Develop and implement community accepted, technically feasible ecological solutions, and promote the use best management practices.
East Maui Watershed Partnership	Reduce and prevent alien species in the watershed region.
West Maui Mountains Watershed	Protect the water recharge area for west, central, and south Maui's urban, industrial, and agricultural needs as well as for sustaining the island's ecological resources.
Koolau Mountains Watershed Partnership	Eliminate and reduce the impacts of weeds, insects, disease, feral ungulates, and human activities in the watershed region.
East Molokai Watershed Partnership	Jointly develop watershed management plans, general programs and management projects in the watershed region

3.3 Unified Watershed Assessment Partnerships

The DOH hosted partnering meetings in June and July 1998 to discuss Hawaii's watershed assessment and restoration priorities. Agencies and groups attending these meetings included the United States Geological Survey, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Coastal Zone Management, EPA, the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts, the United States National Marine Fisheries

Service, the United States Forest Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. In late September 1998, Hawaii's final *Unified Watershed Assessment and Watershed Restoration Priorities* were submitted to the Unified Watershed Assessment Action Team (USDA and EPA) (See Chapter 4 for more information on the process and Appendix C for text of the document.)

3.4 Summary

The State will continue to rely on these partners to develop and implement *Hawaii's Implementation Plan for Polluted Runoff Control*. Special consideration will be given to involving additional partners such as the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Board of Water Supply, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (for State Lands), the United States Department of Defense (for Federal Lands), environmental groups, local community associations, etc., as the opportunity arises. The DOH and the Office of Planning will seek to replicate successful partnerships and outcomes in other watersheds using Memorandum of Agreements to target resources, share information, collect water quality data, etc. These agencies will also use the expertise of the Polluted Runoff Control Forum, the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts, and the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement the State's five-year plans and strategies and evaluate the State's progress every five years.

The State intends to enhance partnerships with businesses and community groups to address polluted runoff problems in urban areas. The Ala Wai Canal Watershed Improvement Project will serve as a model for the urban areas seeking to bring together the community, business, and government sectors to resolve water quality issues. The DOH is sponsoring a pollution prevention (P2) project in West Maui where consultants are working with the hotel industry to develop landscaping techniques and other BMPs to minimize polluted runoff from hotel grounds, golf courses, condominiums, and other resort facilities. In addition, as proposed in *Hawaii's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program Management Plan*, the State intends to work with golf course superintendents to develop mechanisms to implement the golf course management measure. The State plans to use these initiatives as models to establish partnerships with businesses and communities to address other nonpoint source pollution issues.

Streamlining the activities of various partners is necessary to efficiently and effectively address nonpoint source pollution in Hawaii. This is a key factor in successfully managing water quality in the State. The next chapter will focus on the statewide management approach to achieving clean water goals.

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